

## Group Bat Species Action Plan

### Introduction and Vision Statement

This plan covers a range of bat species identified as priority BAP species in Wales that occur or are likely to occur in Carmarthenshire: common and soprano pipistrelle, barbastelle, noctule, brown long-eared, greater and lesser horseshoe bats. As bats often roost together and have similar requirements it can be taken that all other species known in Carmarthenshire will be included in the plan: common pipistrelle whiskered, Brandt's Natterer's, Daubenton's and Serotine.



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The different bat species have different ecological requirements and different feeding strategies but what they do share in common is that they all require a wide range of built, semi-natural and natural habitats for their various feeding and roosting requirements. Hibernation roost sites provide stable temperatures to allow a period of winter torpor, e.g. underground sites such as cave/mines. Nursery roost sites are where females gather in the spring/early summer to give birth and rear their single offspring (e.g. roof spaces, crevices/hollows in mature standing trees). Individuals or small groups of males have separate roosts during spring–autumn in roof spaces or trees. Finally it appears that other sites are used for 'social-gathering' at certain times of the year (e.g. the autumn mating season) for some, or all species.

Bats feed over a wide range of habitats (farmland, woodland, suburbia, parklands, marshes, watercourses and lakes), on a diet of small flying insects such as midges, caddis flies, mayflies, cockchafers, lacewings and small moths. Generally a mosaic of habitats is preferred and for some species (horseshoes) a linking network of hedgerows and tree lines appears to be important.

Loss or disturbance of roost sites, especially within buildings, a decrease in insect prey abundance and feeding habitats have all contributed to a decline in bat population numbers.

Within Carmarthenshire this plan will aim to help maintain the range and population of our bat species, ensure adequate protection through the development process, management of foraging areas and retention and creation of flight lines. Continued raising awareness is an important part of achieving the conservation aims for this important group of species.

### Action Plan Objectives

**BAT1SP** To maintain the population of all bat species in Carmarthenshire

**BAT2DCM** To gather data on the distribution and status of bat species in Carmarthenshire.

**BAT3RA** To raise awareness of the importance of bats in Carmarthenshire and provide advice on habitat/roost management and protected status.

**BAT4POL** To ensure that surveys are undertaken to inform the decision making/planning of any application/project that has the potential to affect bats.

**Actions**

<b>CODE</b>	<b>TEXT</b>	<b>START/END DATE</b>	<b>Lead contact</b>	<b>Action goal</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Priority L, M, H</b>	<b>Report Jan-Dec 2010</b>	<b>Report Jan-Dec 2011</b>	
<b>BAT1SP1</b>	Identify and seek favourable management of woodland within 4 km of maternity or other significant sites identified for greater and lesser horseshoe bats and seek to improve connectivity	2010–ongoing	BCT	Map of key habitat identified  Liaison with landowners	CCC, FCW	?		No update		
<b>BAT1SP2</b>	Through TAYO project erect bat boxes at suitable sites	2010 – 2011	TAYO	At least 24 boxes	Landowners	✓		0 boxes erected.		
<b>BAT2DCM1</b>	Submit bat data for the county and produce digital map of all known roosts	2010–2011	WWBIC	GIS layer	CCC, Carmarthen Bat Group Mammal Recorder			No update		
<b>BAT2DCM2</b>	Carry out annual monitoring of identified bat roosts	2010–ongoing	Carmarthenshire Bat Group (CBG)	Annual monitoring visit	Volunteers			No update – BAT Group has not met recently and appears to be in abeyance.		
<b>BAT2DCM3</b>	Organise ‘Urban Bat Survey’ within county in 2011	2010–11	BCT	Completed survey + report	CCC,	✓		2011 Action	• Urban bat survey of Llanelli, Carmarthen, Pembrey/Burry Port planned	
<b>BAT2DCM4</b>	Contribute to population monitoring through National Bat Monitoring programme for relevant bat species within the county	2010–ongoing	BCT	x NBM schemes established in county	Volunteers CCC CBG			No update		
<b>BAT2DCM5</b>	Identify key sites for survey by bat group	2010–ongoing	CBG	Priority survey list produced	Volunteers Landowners			No update - BAT Group has not met recently and appears to be in abeyance.	Six sites identified for potential survey	
<b>BAT3RA1</b>	Hold public bat events each year as part of the CBG/WTSWW/NT programmes	2010–ongoing	CCC	At least 5 events/year	WTSWW, NT, TAYO, CBG			TAYO, the Wildlife Trust and Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park all held bat walks in 2010.		
<b>BAT3RA2</b>	Establish and update web pages for the CBG on Carmarthenshire Biodiversity website	2010–ongoing	CBG	Established web pages				Action complete.		
<b>BAT3RA3</b>	Carry out further training for CCC officers/planners/agents/architects/tre e surgeons/Tir Gofal staff/woodland managers on bats issues	2010–ongoing	CCC	At least one training event by end 2011	BCT CCW	✓		Not started. Action for 2011.		
<b>BAT4RA4</b>	Promote the incorporation of suitable roost sites within the built environment for those species that use them – including as part of	2010–ongoing	CCC	Advice note on website	CCW Listed buildings section			Not started. Action for 2011.		

	planning process									
<b>BAT4POL1</b>	Ensure that bat surveys and mitigation plans are submitted for all planning applications that may affect bat roosts	2010–ongoing	CCC	100% of relevant applications	Developers Applicants			Planning ecologist - Applications with surveys/ or where surveys have been requested: 115 Commented on 61 applications in 2010 requesting mitigation/compensation. Enhancement for Bat sites requested for 101 sites.		
<b>BAT4POL2</b>	Produce section on bats in CCC biodiversity topic paper	2010–2012	CCC	Topic paper produced	CCC Forward planning			Not started. Action for 2011.		